

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Original) A dispersion comprising particles of metal oxide having a median volume particle diameter in the range from 24 to 42 nm, dispersed in a medium which comprises a mixture of at least one polar material having an interfacial tension of less than  $30 \text{ mNm}^{-1}$  and at least one non-polar material having an interfacial tension greater than  $30 \text{ mNm}^{-1}$ .
2. (Original) A dispersion according to claim 1 wherein the metal oxide particles have a mean crystal size in the range from 4 to 10 nm.
3. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~either one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1 where at least 40% by weight of metal oxide particles have a crystal size within the range 5 to 9 nm.
4. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein less than 16% by volume of metal oxide particles have a volume diameter of less than 9 nm below the median volume particle diameter.
5. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein less than 30% by volume of metal oxide particles have a volume diameter of less than 5 nm below the median volume particle diameter.
6. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein more than 84% by volume of metal oxide particles have a volume diameter of less than 17 nm above the median volume particle diameter.
7. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein more than 70% by volume of metal oxide particles have a volume diameter of less than 6 nm above the median volume particle diameter.
8. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the metal oxide particles have an extinction coefficient at 524 nm in the range from 0.4 to 1.2 l/g/cm.

9. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the metal oxide particles have an extinction coefficient at 360 nm in the range from 5 to 11 l/g/cm.
10. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the metal oxide particles have an extinction coefficient at 308 nm in the range from 40 to 52 l/g/cm.
11. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the metal oxide particles have (i) a median volume particle diameter in the range from 29 to 37 nm, and/or (ii) less than 10% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of less than 11 nm below the median volume particle diameter, and/or (iii) less than 16% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of 8 nm below the median volume particle diameter, and/or (iv) less than 30% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of less than 5 nm below the median volume particle diameter, and/or (v) more than 90% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of less than 27 nm above the median volume particle diameter, and/or (vi) more than 84% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of less than 17 nm above the median volume particle diameter, and/or (vii) more than 70% by volume of particles having a volume diameter of less than 6 nm above the median volume particle diameter.
12. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the particles of metal oxide have an extinction coefficient at 524 nm in the range from 0.5 to 1.1 l/g/cm, an extinction coefficient at 450 nm in the range from 1.0 to 2.0 l/g/cm, an extinction coefficient at 360 nm in the range from 6 to 10 l/g/cm, an extinction coefficient at 308 nm in the range from 44 to 48 l/g/cm, a maximum extinction coefficient in the range from 60 to 64 l/g/cm, and a  $\lambda(\text{max})$  in the range from 274 to 282 nm.
13. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the polar material has an interfacial tension in the range from 10 to 25 mNm<sup>-1</sup>.

14. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the non-polar material has an interfacial tension in the range from 35 to 45 mNm<sup>-1</sup>.
15. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the difference in the interfacial tension of the polar material and the non-polar material is in the range from 13 to 20 mNm<sup>-1</sup>.
16. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the ratio of polar to non-polar material is in the range from 30 to 70:30 to 70% by weight.
17. (Currently amended) A dispersion according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the polar material is selected from the group consisting of are triethylhexyl triglyceride, C12-15 alkyl benzoate, caprylic/capric triglyceride, isononyl isononanoate, isostearyl neopentanoate, and octyldodecyl neopentanoate.